LIGHTNING

Lightning events are generated by atmospheric imbalance and turbulence due to a combination of conditions. Generated by the buildup of charged ions in a thundercloud, the discharge of a lightning bolt interacts with the best conducting object or surface on the ground. Lightning occurs during all thunderstorms and can strike anywhere.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

The National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) database identified six significant Lightning events in Howard County between 1994 and 2019. However, it is likely that additional events outside this period were not captured in the database.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

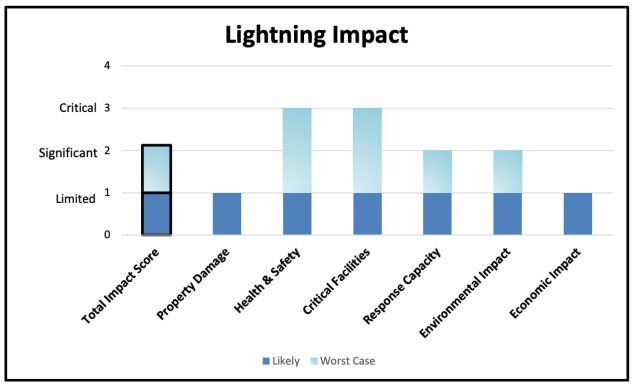
There is an expected **11-30% Chance of Annual occurrence** of a Lightning event in Howard County. In the most likely Lightning scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Limited**. In the worst-case scenario, the **Total Impact is considered Significant**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A Lightning event causing extensive property damage in Howard County occurred on August 3rd, 2002, when the County was hit with over 1000 lightning strikes and suffered more than $800,000 in property damage.
- The air in the channel of a lightning strike reaches temperatures higher than 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ready.gov



Lightning Risk Profile

	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	3.8 Likely-Very Likely		50%
CONSEQUENCE	Impact	1 Limited	2.1 Significant	40%
	Warning Time	3 Moderate	3 Moderate	5%
	Duration	1 Short	1 Short	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.5	2.9